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Campus Upgrades Theatre Lighting Technology

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Summary: Supported by the Morris Green Reinvestment Fund, the project improves energy conservation and curriculum.

MORRIS, Minnesota (December 10, 2015)—The University of Minnesota, Morris has executed its second Green Reinvestment Fund project: a light-emitting diode (LED) lighting upgrade for the campus’s Raymond J. Lammers Proscenium and Black Box Theatres as well as the Student Center. Orchestrated by Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts Craig Moxon and Theatre and Events Coordinator Carrie Hurst in consultation with Facilities Management and the Morris Campus Student Association, the project improves energy conservation and curriculum.

By replacing the 20 tungsten halogen lamps currently used in the spaces, the campus will conserve a total of 3,420 watts per hour. The lights also will generate less heat, requiring less cooling. Further, the upgrade provides more flexibility in generating color palettes during productions and helps the Theatre Arts discipline provide a 21st-century approach to teaching students lighting technology and art.

“The lighting upgrade has allowed the theatre discipline to align its mission with the University’s mission of sustainability,” says Moxon. “This is a first step toward creating a theatre environment that can become a model for sustainability within the University of Minnesota system while allowing our students to fully realize their creative endeavors with the most current technology available in the entertainment industry.”

This activity was funded by the Morris Green Reinvestment Fund, which began in 2012. This initiative was generously funded by the Morris Campus Student Association, the UMM Alumni Association, and private donors. The Fund supports technological and infrastructure projects that have estimable cost savings and advance Morris’s sustainability-related objectives, including its goal to become a zero-carbon and zero-waste campus. The Fund supports responsible resource consumption and management—and encourages heightened consciousness within the campus community regarding the development of practical sustainability efforts. Additional support was provided by University of Minnesota, Morris Tech Fee Funds.

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